New pharma policy

†621. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new pharmaceutical policy in the country is being reconsidered upon by a Minister level committee;

(b) if so, when was the responsibility of policy reconsideration was attributed to the Minister level committee and by when the report of the same was targeted to be received finally;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the efforts to reduce the prices of medicine on the part of Government would remain ceased until the report of the above committee is received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GoM). The First meeting of the GoM was held on 10.4.2007. No time frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy.

(c) No, Sir.

New fertilizer policy

†622. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new fertilizer policy is required for encouraging the setting up chemical fertilizer manufacturing projects in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have discussed with the industrial sector in respect of evolving new fertilizer policy; and

(d) if so, the suggestions came out during the discussions and by when the new policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The pricing policy for new and expansion projects in urea sector has been notified by the Government in January, 2004. The existing policy has not been successful in attracting investments in this sector. Moreover, the availability of gas, which is the critical feedstock for production of urea, has been a major constraint in attracting investments in this sector.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In view of the projected improvement in availability of gas in future and the limitations of the existing policy, the review of existing policy is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) The fertilizer industry is being consulted to decide upon the broad contours of the new investment policy. The fertilizer industry through FAI has suggested a new investment policy based on import parity price for brownfield/ Greenfield plants as well as for expansion through revamp of existing units. The Government is examining all possible options including the above option as suggested by the fertilizer industry for finalizing the new investment policy.

Re-opening of closed fertilizer units

623. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government propose to restart fertilizer factories lying closed;

(b) the total number of factories lying closed along with the period for which they have been lying closed; and

(c) whether these factories would be allowed to continue functioning in the public sector or is there any plan to sell these plants to private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The companies together with the date of closure of their units are indicated in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Company/Units	Date of closure
	Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited	
1.	SINDRI (Jharkhand)	05.9.2002
2.	GORAKHPUR (U.P.)	18.7.2002
3.	TALCHER (Orissa)	18.7.2002
4.	RAMAGUNDAM (A.P.)	18.7.2002
5.	KORBA (Project not commissioned) (Chhattisgarh)	30.7.2002
	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.	
1.	BARAUNI (Bihar)	05.9.2002
2.	DURGAPUR (West Bengal)	05.9.2002
3.	HALDIA (Project not commissioned) (W.B.)	18.7.2002
	Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.	
1.	AMJHORE (Bihar)	16.6.2003
2.	SALADIPURA (Rajasthan)	30.7.2002
3.	DEHRADUN (Uttarakhand)	30.7.2002